



WINSTON ACADEMY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**PROUD TRADITION,
BRIGHT FUTURE**

545 Richardson Road, Louisville MS 39339

(662)773-3569

www.winstonpatriots.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- I. Introductory letter
- II. Mission Statement
- III. Sports Offered
- IV. Ath. Dept. Organization
- V. Responsibilities
- VI. Expectations
- VII. Booster/Support Groups
- VIII. Policies
- IX. Forms

PATRIOT ATHLETICS

WINSTON ACADEMY
545 Richardson Rd., Louisville, MS 39339
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PARENTS OF WA ATHLETES,

We're very proud that you have chosen to send your young person to Winston Academy, both as a student and an athlete. We will do our best to see that they have a meaningful learning experience in the classroom and on the field/court.

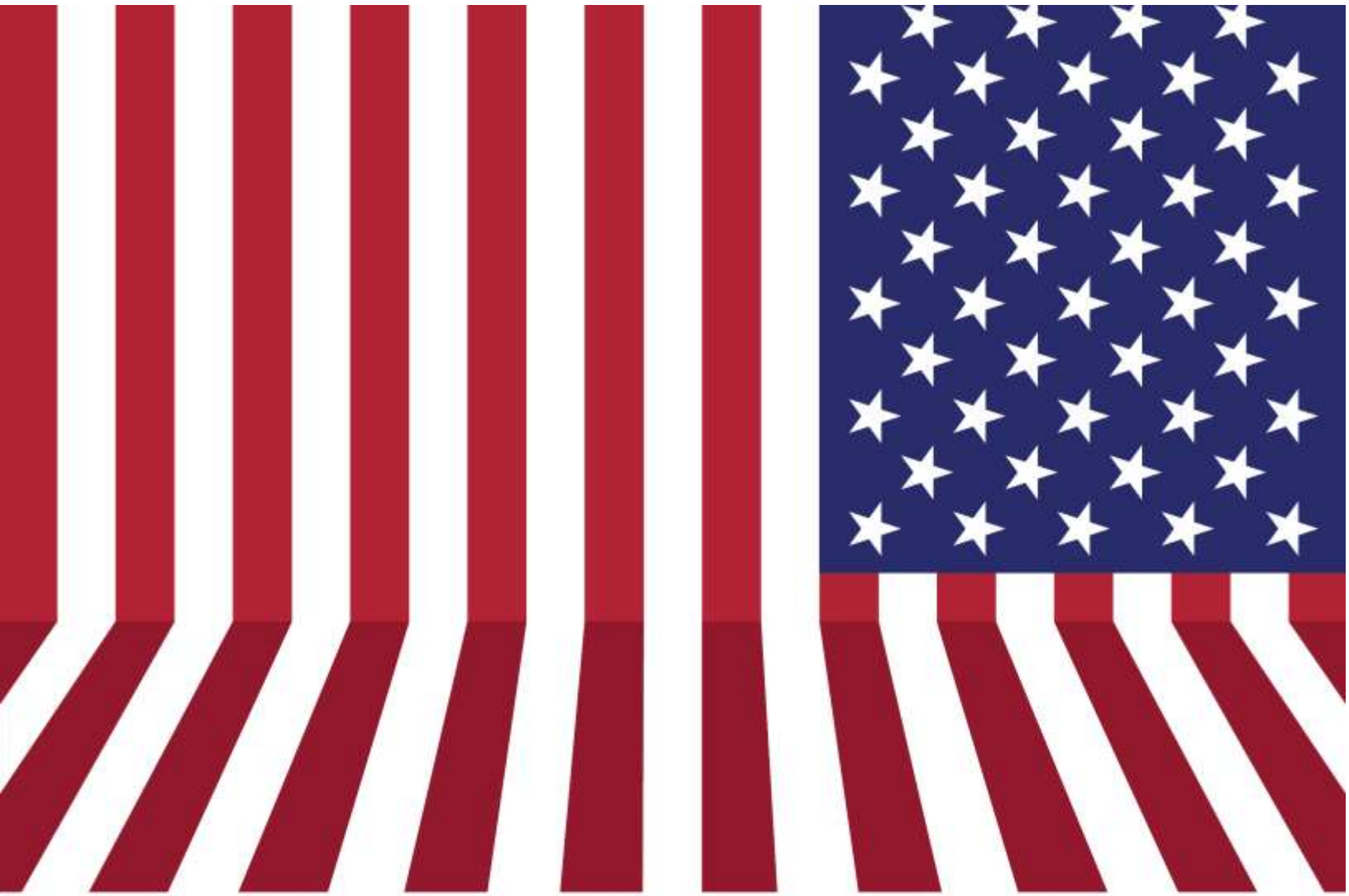
Hopefully, the information in this handbook will help to answer questions you might have about our athletic program and the way we operate within the MAIS.

We hope that you will partner with us in helping our student athletes be successful by being supportive of the entire program and helping to represent our school in the best possible way. Athletics are very competitive, but we all must remember that fan behavior will either help or hurt our teams. Please make sure we're affecting our young people in a positive way.

Thank you again for allowing us to work with your sons and daughters. We're going to coach them hard, but they will be treated like our own. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

GO BIG RED!

PAT BYRD, A.D./ HEAD FB COACH, WINSTON ACADEMY



ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT



At Winston Academy, we want to empower our student athletes with the skills they will need to be successful spiritually, mentally, and physically.



III. SPORTS OFFERED AT WINSTON ACADEMY

FALL:

Football 7-12

Fast Pitch 6-12

Cheer 7-12

Volleyball 6-12

WINTER:

Basketball(B/G) 7-12

SPRING:

Baseball 7-12

Track (B/G) 6-12

Tennis (B/G) 6-12

Golf (B/G) 6-12

Archery (B/G) 4-12

- All sports at WA operate under the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools and its by-laws. This is the governing body for independent schools in our state. The Academy Activities Commission is the governing body for athletics and the handbook can be found on their website, <https://msais.org>
- WA offers peewee sports in football, cheer, and basketball.

IV. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

**SCHOOL BOARD
HEAD OF SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
HEAD COACH
ASSISTANT COACH**

If an issue arises that needs to be addressed, please start with the A D. It is not advisable to meet with a coach immediately after a game. the 24-hour rule works and that is the way we will operate. We're all responsible for setting the right example for our student athletes and these issues will be taken care of in a closed-door meeting, never in front of our players.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES:

SUPERVISION-

- Head of School, A.D., or their designee is responsible for supervision at all athletic contests, both home and away.
- Head coaches are responsible for their team.
- Security plans for all home contests will be in place and followed. This is on file with the MAIS office.

ROLES-

A.D. :

- Manage day-to-day operation of the athletic department / approve expenditures
- Establish open communication between school/community
- Serve as liaison between Head of School and coaches

Head Coach :

- Supervise their team at games, practice, offseason
- Organize practice plans / offseason workouts
- Store, inventory, distribute equipment
- Control expenditures / collect fees , deposit to business office
- Communicate with trainer/medical staff on injuries
- Coordinate travel/meals with AD and Booster Club
- Keep parents informed about important dates and events

Asst. Coach :

- Follow the instructions of the Head Coach
- Be loyal, flexible, and available
- Communicate with Head Coach
- Supervise players in your group/drill

Parent :

- Be supportive of your child, the team, coaches, and school

If we can all do our part, then OUR TEAMS will have a chance to do great things.

V. GOALS / OBJECTIVES

Each coach at WA will work daily to accomplish the following:

- Establish an athletic program that creates a safe and cooperative environment for students, coaches, and community.
- Develop a process for solutions to situations/problems.
- Assess needs (facilities, improvements) and prioritize them.
- Use resources wisely and in the best interests of school/program.
- Evaluate progress / outcomes.
- Be proactive and positive.
- Have a written plan for everything.
- Promote their program, good sportsmanship, and citizenship.
- Enforce rules of MAIS, school board, and athletic department with established actions that are clearly stated and understood by everyone involved.
- There is no substitute for treating people the right way. We will be positive and always make decisions that will be in the best interest of our student athletes, teams, coaches, and school.
- Make sure our athletes have every opportunity to participate on as many teams as they are capable of contributing to.

VI. ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletic participation is a privilege, no matter at what level. Privileges are earned and not given frivolously. Student athletes will abide by the policies established by the Louisville-Winston Education Foundation, as well as those of the MAIS. Our student athletes will also be held to a higher standard than other students at WA because when they choose to participate in athletics, they become representatives of our school and community. If they choose not to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, then athletic privileges could be suspended or lost. Hopefully, this will not be a step that has to be taken.

- An athlete must be in attendance at least 4 periods of the school day to be eligible to participate in practice and/or a contest.
- If an athlete accumulates more absences / tardies than is acceptable during a 9-week grading period, they will be subject to disciplinary action.
- According to MAIS policy, if an athlete is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year, then they are eligible the entire school year. Eligibility is gained by passing a minimum of 4 academic classes.
- Our athletes need to be held accountable each grading period. If they fall below the 4-class threshold at end of the grading period, they will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Disciplinary action for an offense at school will result in consequences for athletes.
- Behavior away from school that reflects poorly on athlete, team, or school will result in disciplinary action.
- The disciplinary action referred to above will be coordinated between the Head of school, AD, and coach. All decisions will be made in the best interest of athletes and team.

Young people need boundaries. They sometimes need reasons to do the right thing. If they are held accountable, athletes will comply to play. Hopefully they will learn to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. We want our athletes to be their best and will help anyway we can.

VII. BOOSTER CLUBS / SUPPORT GROUPS

- WA fully recognizes the necessity of having groups that can help to supplement our athletic program. Athletics are becoming more expensive each year and to be able to compete requires more than the school alone can provide.
- We are extremely blessed to have parents who are willing to provide not only for their children but also to help all of our athletes.
- Boosters /Support groups will coordinate with the coaches and AD on all aspects of fundraising as needed.
- Boosters will work within the MAIS rules, as well as the by- laws set forth by the Louisville-Winston Education Foundation.
- Money raised must come through the WA business office as a non-profit organization, a 501(C) 3 entity.
- Donations may be tax deductible and should be approved by the WA administration.
- Fundraising will be coordinated through the Booster Club and WA administration to make sure there is no duplication and to limit constraints on our patrons.
- Boosters / Support groups / individuals won't influence athletic department policy or decisions made by WA personnel.
- Boosters / Support groups will operate with the sole purpose of supplementing the budget of the WA athletic department.

TRANSPORTATION / TRAVEL / MEALS

- AD/Coach responsible for travel arrangements for each sport.
- Travel rosters will be turned into office prior to the first road trip.
- Coaches are responsible for athletes /personnel on trips.
- Only coaches, players, and school personnel are allowed to travel on school-provided trips.
- Coaches will make sure van/bus is clean, fueled, and ready for trip.
- The team should travel with the coach. If a situation arises where other transportation is needed, parental consent is required.
- If outside transportation(charter/rental) is needed, coach and AD will coordinate with the Head of School and Booster Club to plan to provide the best possible travel for our athletes.
- Pregame / postgame meals will be the responsibility of the Booster Club and/or parents of athletes in each sport.

VIII. PLAYER SAFETY

- Coaches work every day to limit injuries by developing their athlete's strength, speed, and flexibility.
- Injuries are inevitable in athletics. We are fortunate to have a full-time trainer provided by Ochsner-Rush Hospital in Meridian. Josh Worrell has worked at WA for over ten years and does a great job treating our athletes.
- Coaches will check facilities and equipment weekly for safety.
- Coaches will always be weather aware.
- Ample breaks will be provided during practice. Safety of players will be the top priority during practice.
- All coaches will be CPR / First Aid certified.
- Athletes must have a yearly physical to be able to participate. Physicals will be provided each February at WA by Ochsner-Rush.
- Before an athlete may return to activity after injury, the athlete must have a medical release from the treatment facility.

VIII. POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Undue Influence for Participation

- Students will be able to participate in as many sports as parents/athletes feel they are able to, without the influence from a coach to specialize.
- Coaches will encourage participation, not discourage it.

Overlapping Seasons

- Once the season begins, athletes can't start another season without the consent of the original season's coach. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she can't start another until the original sport is over.
- In situations where seasons run simultaneously, if possible, athletes may participate in both. This hinges on both coaches being able to work out practice/game agreements between the two sports without putting their teams in a bad position.
- If athlete must choose, district game/match will take precedence. There will be no penalty or punishment for the athlete.
- A sport that is in-season will always have priority.

Outside Participation

- Playing on a tournament or travel team in a sport is a decision that each participant and their family must make on their own. Anyone can appreciate the willingness of a family to help their child get better athletically.
- We are a small school with a limited number of athletes. For us to have a chance to be successful in our athletic program, our athletes must be able to participate in as many sports as possible. Specialization can be detrimental to our success.
- Every situation is different, and the athletic program will respect whatever decision a family makes regarding their son/daughter playing a sport outside of the school setting.
- If a team at WA is counting on an athlete playing and something happens while they are participating in an outside sport, it places all involved in a bad situation.
- Please be mindful of what it takes to be successful for both our program and our school.

VIII. POLICIES / PROCEDURES

- Athletics is part of the regular school program at WA and is under the same administrative control.
- If discipline is needed because of behavior at school, there will be repercussions athletically.
- Participating in athletics is a privilege and privileges are earned or lost based on actions.
- A coach has control over the players on their team. This includes position and playing time.
- These decisions will be a direct result of how a player performs in practice relative to the standards for that position.
- No coach will knowingly mistreat a player in any way.
- If a meeting is requested by a parent with a coach concerning their child, it will be set up through the A.D.
- No other player will be discussed, nor will playing time. The coach will address what they see the parent's child needs to do to improve.
- Hopefully this will help the situation and the player will have a better understanding of the coach's perspective and their role on the team.

VIII. TEAM SELECTION POLICY

- Coaches at WA are encouraged to keep as many players as possible on their teams.
- Time allowed, space, facilities, and safety are factors that may dictate the number of players manageable in a sport.
- If tryouts are needed to best select a team's roster, the coaching staff oversees the process.
- Coaches will fully explain the selection process so that all involved have a clear understanding of how it will be done.

HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FOR JR. HIGH STUDENTS

- 6TH graders have limited participation, mainly spring sports. They are also able to play fastpitch and volleyball.
- 7th /8th graders may participate in HS sports; it will be left up to the discretion of coach/AD/parents. This is a privilege, not a right, and may only be done in special circumstances.

VIII. LETTERMAN POLICY

- An athlete, upon meeting the criteria for lettering in a sport, may purchase a jacket.
- Only 9th – 12th grade athletes are eligible to get a jacket. 7th and 8th grade athletes who play on a varsity team may letter in a sport but must wait until 9th grade to buy the jacket.

| SPORT | QUALIFICATIONS |
|-------|----------------|
|-------|----------------|

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| • FB - | 1 YEAR, 16 QTRS. |
| • BKB - | 1 YEAR |
| • BB - | 1 YEAR |
| • FP - | 1 YEAR |
| • CHEER- | 1 YEAR |
| • VB - | 1 YEAR |
| • TRACK - | 1 YEAR |
| • GOLF- | 1 YEAR |
| • ARCH.- | 1 YEAR |
| • TENNIS- | 1 YEAR |

DISCONTINUING / ADDING A SPORT

- The following are factors that will influence whether or not a sport is offered or not at WA.

DISCONTINUING:

- Decline in interest
- Unavailability of coaches
- Inadequate facilities
- Inadequate funding

ADDING:

- Interest increases
- Adequate facilities
- Adequate funding

ALCOHOL / DRUG POLICY

- The WA athletic department will follow the policy set forth in the by-laws created by the Board of Trustees.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

- Each coach will handle discipline within their own team. They represent WA and will do so the right way.
- Coaches will give a clear understanding of standards/expectations at the start of season.
- If a suspension is needed, parents will be notified by the head coach after consulting with Head of School / AD.
- If suspension ends season, the athlete will not be allowed to letter in a sport or receive any award.
- A suspended athlete cannot start another sport until the original sport is completed.
- Athletes at WA are expected to not only compete at a high level, but to also behave and represent our school in the best possible way. This is non-negotiable.

VIII. FACILITIES

- Athletic facilities at WA are strictly available for use by Patriot athletes under the supervision of our coaches. Any other use is prohibited. This rule will be strictly enforced. All exceptions for camps, etc., must be approved by the administration and school board
- There will be no unsupervised practices. This is both a safety and liability issue.
- WA is not liable or legally responsible for anything that occurs during unauthorized activities at facilities.
- Coaches are responsible for their facilities. They will maintain grounds and/or buildings, keep it clean, and notify A.D. if something needs to be repaired.
- Coaches who choose to ignore the policy of unsupervised practices will assume all responsibility and may be subject to disciplinary action.

VIII. WINSTON ACADEMY ATHLETICS

By signing this form, I acknowledge having read and understand the WA Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by the policies and procedures described in it.

Athlete's Name _____

Athlete's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____